

ELMA DIENDA (MP)

14 OCTOBER 2015

CONTRIBUTION ON THE MOTION ON BULLYING AT SCHOOLS
WHICH LEAD TO SUICIDES COMMITTED BY PUPILS.

Hon Speaker, Hon. Members allow me to thank the Hon. Member for this important motion. I also like to recognized the input of the Min. Of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa for here contribution on this matter as it was reported in the print media as well in television.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, bullying can threaten learners^s/students physical and emotional safety, and can negatively impact their ability to learn. We have to stop it before it starts. It also affects learners/students sense of security.

We have to conduct assements in our schools to determine how often bullying occurs, and where it happens. Bullying is widespread and perhaps the most underreported safety problem in our society. It occurs at all grades in our schools and at all levels. Most learners/students do not report bullying to adults. As a result that teachers may under estimate the extent of bullying in their schools and may only be able to identify a portion of the actual bullies. Learners/students also believe that most teachers don't intervene when told about bullying.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members. Research have proven that boys are more likely to be bullied than girls. That bullies don't operate alone.

Why are learners/students not telling?

- a) Feeling shame at not being able to stand up for themselves.
- b) Feeling they would not be believed.
- c) They don't want to worry their parents.

- d) Having no confidence in the system.
- e) Thinking that their parents or teachers intervention would make the problem worse.
- f) Fearing that the teachers would tell the bully who told on him or her.
- g) Will be left out from the group.

What can we ~~do~~? 

- a) Establish a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect.
- b) School bullying prevention program.
- c) Bullying code of conduct for all learners
- d) Launch an awareness campaign to make the issue known to the school, parents and the community.
- e) Train teacher and staff on the school rules and policies.
- f) Build a safe environment.

I thank you.